

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 20: Department of Human Services Employee Incentive Payments

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Lieber

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including proposed budgetary changes, after further review and refinement, in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session, for employee incentive payments.

To maintain adequate staffing in facilities serving vulnerable populations, which has been a particular concern during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Human Services implemented a one-time \$500 bonus for an estimated 24,800 eligible staff working in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities group homes and nursing facilities. The agency also negotiated a pay raise for Stabilization and Crisis Unit employees. These agreements are already in place and affecting the agency's budget.

The Department requested \$14.5 million General Fund and \$2.1 million Federal Funds expenditure limitation to fund these initiatives; however, based on more recent information, the agency now anticipates costs will be lower. The approved amount should be adjusted accordingly and finalized for inclusion in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.